

**NEWS ADVISORY****Jan. 6, 2006****CONTACTS:****Doug Perry 801.808.2414****Carol Sisco 801.538.3991****Patrick V. Royal 202.395.5525****Utah Fights Meth Epidemic**

**WHAT:** State and local officials will announce a statewide methamphetamine initiative on Monday, Jan. 9, to deal with the ever-growing meth problem that is rapidly becoming a national epidemic.

Meth is and has been the number one illegal drug of choice since 2001 for all Utahns admitted to public substance-abuse treatment programs. Last year it accounted for nearly 28 percent of 18,985 admissions. It also is the primary substance of choice for women, reaching 36.8 percent of all female admissions.

**WHEN:** Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** First Step House, 411 N. Grant St. (740 West), Salt Lake City

Directions: Travel west on 600 North until you reach 800 West. Go south to 400 North. Go east (left) to Grant Street. Enter the building on Grant Street.

**SPEAKERS:**

(In order of appearance)

Brent Gardner, Utah Association of Counties Executive Director

Scott Burns, Deputy Director State & Local Affairs, White House Drug Policy

Utah Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr.

Camille Moore, Utah Association of Counties President

Rodney Symes, Former meth addict, current Director of Outpatient Services, First Step Home

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